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Wednesday, January 2, 2013

## NATIONAL

The EPA's Tainted HF Tests. Wall Street Journal, Op-Ed. The Pavillion study involves two water wells drilled by the agency in 2010 to test groundwater quality. Experts from the Wyoming Water Development Commission and elsewhere sharply criticized the EPA's results on several grounds, including that EPA investigators didn't follow their own guidelines on the timeliness of the testing and the purity of the water samples. The federal Bureau of Land Management said that "much more robust" testing would be needed to properly draw conclusions.

No evidence HF contaminates groundwater. Baltimore Sun, Energy In Depth. Regulators from across the country have confirmed that developing natural gas from shale has not resulted in emissions levels that pose a threat to human health. Similarly, they note they have never once seen a confirmed case of hydraulic fracturing causing groundwater contamination.

Natural gas expansion helps drive industry amid rising costs. E&E News (sub req'd). The oil and gas industry is expected to continue its strong expansion in the United States this year as new areas are opened to drilling, but companies may be in for a rougher time than they experienced in 2012.

## PROMISED LAND

Promised Land wades into HF debate. Associated Press. "We're taking it seriously, obviously, and we'll be ready to engage folks who may have questions about the development process as a result of the film. But I'm not sure anyone's losing a lot of sleep over it at this point," said Chris Tucker of Energy In Depth. "They may have Matt Damon and Jim from 'The Office' on their side, but we've got the facts, the science, the consensus of regulators, and a 65-year track record of performance and safety on ours. So we think that's a pretty fair fight."

EID's 'Real Promised Land' site takes aim at Damon movie. SNL Energy. "That's what the Real Promised Land is about — letting people who don't have lucrative film contracts tell their stories," Energy In Depth's Steve Everley said. "We think real people talking about real issues is the best way to discuss responsible energy development." Gas development does not necessitate choosing between economic growth and environmental protection, which is a piece of the story the entertainment industry overlooks, Everley said.

Damon's film 'Promised Land' overlooks shale's boon to US. CNN, Op-Ed. Of course, what the film does not explain is the incredible economic revolution that hydraulic fracturing has already brought to much of America. From 2008 to 2011, natural gas production in the U.S. has risen a staggering 10%, according to a recent report from the International Energy Agency. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts U.S. natural gas production will increase 44% by 2040, thanks in large part to increased shale gas production made available by hydraulic fracturing.

Promised Land Fracks Or Blows It: My Review. John Hanger, Blog. Though the Abu Dhabi investors get their money's worth, Promised Land insults the many millions who work in or with the US gas industry, lease their land, or receive royalty checks.

With 'Promised Land,' Hollywood goes weird on HF. Washington Examiner, Op-Ed. Wait a minute -- a story about how the environmental movement's efforts to get liberals to oppose a clean-burning, abundant fuel is actually a front for Big Oil? Excuse me, I need to start writing a screenplay. I smell Oscar ...

Damon's HF hunt finds little good will. E&E News (sub req'd). "Promised Land," Matt Damon's movie tale about the shale boom in rural America, is posting "modest" box office results for its limited early release along with middling reviews. Drilling companies have launched their own online response, called "The Real Promised Land," highlighting the financial benefits of drilling and the stories of landowners who've suffered no ill effects.

HF Fiction. National Review. Damon, on the other hand, is terrible, and given his dual role as writer and actor, he has no excuse. Promoting the movie on Jay Leno, the actor said that "my guy certainly doesn't feel like a bad guy, and, you know, it's up to the audience to decide if they really think he's a bad guy." But Damon has created a morally conflicted salesman who becomes less likable by the minute, and not just because the acting is so overwrought.

## INTERNATIONAL

Argentina's YPF, Bidas Sign \$1.5B Shale Agreement. NGI's Shale Daily (sub req'd). Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales (YPF) SA,

Argentina's newly state-owned energy company, announced Friday that it had signed a two-year, \$1.5 billion agreement with Bidas Corp. to explore and drill for oil in two of the country's shale plays.

Policy on shale gas on the anvil. Hindustan Times. Petroleum and natural gas minister M Veerappa Moily said on Wednesday his ministry is working on a "positive and forward-looking" shale gas policy that would be placed before the Union cabinet shortly.

US self-reliance may secure India's energy future. Business Today. The implications of the world's largest energy consumer becoming self-reliant in gas and less dependent on oil imports are enormous - it is being bandied the biggest event in the global energy market after the oil shocks of the 1970s.

Oil & Gas: HF's fans. The Africa Report. Shale-gas exploration and growing enthusiasm for fracking – the injection of liquids into the earth's crust to force out gas – will cut both ways in Africa. It means more energy but shrinking export markets.

## ALASKA

Alaska proposes new rules to regulate HF. Gas Business Briefing (sub req'd). The executive director of the Ground Water Protection Council on Monday praised a set of rules being proposed by Alaska regulators to oversee the process of hydraulic fracturing. "I would say that they are quite comprehensive and go into significant detail on protecting local groundwater or drinking water," Mike Paque said.

## CALIFORNIA

California's water supply must be protected. Daily Democrat, Editorial. The great fracking debate is coming to California, pitting the oil and natural gas industry against environmentalists in a battle for control of the Monterey Shale, which extends from the Central Valley down to Los Angeles County. It is believed to be the richest oil deposit in the United States.

Oilfield drilling. Ventura County Star, LTE. Since fracking has the potential to make this country a leading exporter of energy in competition with the OPEC countries, I'm sure these facts are of great interest to all.

Oil Producers To Share Four Corners Data At Conference. Sacramento Bee, PR. An energy conference scheduled for March 18 and 19, 2013, will feature a series of presentations about new drilling for shale oil in the Mancos Shale Formation of the Four Corners Region of Northwest New Mexico. The conference will be held at San Juan College in the Henderson Fine Arts Center.

Can HF Cause Earthquakes? KCET News. Investigative report on Fracking: can it cause earthquakes? Plus, in-studio guest Luke Burbank, with rates the holidays' highs and lows with Madeleine Brand. And Los Angeles Magazine senior editor Linda Immediato discusses cutting edge fashion that is "Made in LA."

## COLORADO

Oil and gas lawsuits may dominate 2013. Times Call, Editorial. Will Longmont be successful in moving that lawsuit to Boulder County? Will that make a difference? These are among the unknowns that will play out through the year. Many in Colorado and the nation will be watching these lawsuits, which focus on the topics of state versus local control, on health and environmental issues, access to energy sources and private property rights.

Colo. proposes bigger buffer between drilling and homes. E&E News (sub req'd). The state has a long history of fossil fuel production but in recent years has heard an outcry from some community members who worry about possible environmental and health effects of hydraulic fracturing and other drilling techniques. As improved technology has prompted drillers to move closer to population centers, one city has gone so far as to ban fracking, and others hope to follow suit. NOTE: Denver Post also reports.

## FLORIDA

Does HF Have a Growing Future in Florida? Bradenton Times. Pollister has offices in Immokalee and Michigan and thinks fracking in Florida is inevitable, and may even happen within the next year. The News Press also reported that Alco Inc. was said to have discovered 94 tons of possible fracking sand in Hendry County.

## NORTHEAST

Natural gas growth Marcellus shale projections encouraging. Bluefield Daily Telegraph, Editorial. A new study is predicting that West Virginia's vast Marcellus shale field could support more than 29,000 jobs by 2020, and 58,000 by the year 2035. That is —

of course — if the industry is allowed to continue shale-gas development in the Mountain State, and if the federal government doesn't attempt to curtail natural gas growth as we have seen in recent years with coal.

Shale Boom Brings Ohio 39K Jobs, W.Va. 11.8K. Wheeling Intelligencer. Drilling and fracking natural gas wells is only part of the picture when it comes to the Utica and Marcellus shale industry supporting nearly 39,000 Ohio jobs in 2012.

Coast Guard mulls barges carrying wastewater from shale gas drilling. Associated Press. The shale gas drilling industry wants to use barges to move its potentially toxic wastewater across rivers and lakes to disposal sites across the country, but the U.S. Coast Guard must first decide whether it's safe. NOTE: Tribune Review also reports.

Protecting New York from HF. Kingston Daily Freeman, LTE. We are facing a critical time in our efforts to protect New York from the dangers of hydrofracking for natural gas. There is much we must do if we are to have a chance to protect our beautiful state.

Citizens pulling together to stop HF. Albany Times Union. The Genesee County-based drilling company Lenape Resources filed a lawsuit late last month to force the citizens of Avon, in nearby Livingston County, to accept hydrofracking.

HF linked to climate change. Albany Times Union, LTE. Opposition to this method of gas drilling is widespread. A Dec. 5 Siena College poll showed that, throughout upstate New York, opponents of fracking outnumber supporters 45 percent to 39 percent.

## OHIO

Shale drilling boom triggers steel production revival. Columbus Business First. America's shale gas drilling boom is likely to spur not just chemicals and plastics production, as Columbus Business First reported, but also pump up U.S. steel output.

Steady progress seen in Ohio's natural gas drilling. Dayton Business Journal. The movement to tap into Ohio's rich reserve of natural gas is taking shape, but remains in its early stages, according to the Akron Beacon Journal. To date, 45 fracking wells are in various stages of production into the Utica shale, the vast geological formation in the eastern part of the state.

Are there any new technologies for extracting oil and natural gas that will come in 2013? Youngstown Vindicator. The oil and gas industry is constantly updating the methods it uses to extract oil and gas from shale. The expectation is that within the next year, the industry will continue to expand efforts to recycle more of the brine used in fracking.

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